AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-13. (Cancelled)

- 14. (Currently Amended) A chimeric polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of a native OB protein, with or without the initiating N-terminal methionine and with or without the native signal sequence, fused to an immunoglobulin heavy chain constant domain sequence, of claim 13-wherein said immunoglobulin constant domain sequence comprised the hinge, CH2 and CH3 regions of an IgG.
 - 15. (Cancelled)
- 16. (Currently Amended) The chimeric polypeptide of claim [15]14 wherein two OB polypeptide IgG heavy chain fusions are linked to each other by at least one disulfide bond to yield a homodimeric immunoglobulin-like structure.
- 17. **(Original)** The chimeric polypeptide of claim 16 wherein at least one of said OB polypeptide-IgG heavy chain fusions is associated with an immunoglobulin light chain.
- 18. (**Previously Presented**) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a chimeric polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of a native OB protein, with or without the initiating N-terminal methionine and with or without the native signal sequence, fused to an immunoglobulin heavy chain constant domain sequence.
- 19. (Original) A replicable expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 18.
- 20. (Original) A host cell transformed with the replicable expression vector of claim 19.
- 21. (Previously Presented) A process comprising culturing the host cells of claim 20 so as to express the nucleic acid encoding said chimeric polypeptide and recovering said chimeric polypeptide.
- 22. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 21 wherein said host cells are cotransformed with nucleic acid encoding at least two OB protein-immunoglobulin heavy chain constant domain fusions.
- 23. (**Original**) The process of claim 22 wherein said cells are further transformed with nucleic acid encoding at least one immunoglobulin light chain.
- 24. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition associated with the abnormal expression or function of the OB gene or for eliciting a biological response mediated

by an OB receptor comprising administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of the chimeric polypeptide, wherein said chimeric polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of a native OB protein, with or without the initiating N-terminal methionine and with or without the native signal sequence, fused to an immunoglobulin heavy chain constant domain sequence, of elaim 13.

- 25. (Currently Amended) The method [fo] of claim 24 wherein said condition is selected from the group consisting of obesity, bulemia and type I or II diabetes.
- 26. (Original) A composition for the treatment of obesity comprising an effective amount of a chimeric polypeptide of claim 13 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
 - 27. (Cancelled)
- 28. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 18 encoding a chimeric polypeptide comprising a mature native human OB polypeptide fused, at its C-terminus, to the N-terminus of an IgG constant domain sequence comprising the hinge, CH2 and CH3 regions.
- 29. (New) The method of Claim 24, wherein the biological response mediated by an OB receptor is a decrease in food intake.
- 30. (New) The method of Claim 24, wherein the biological response mediated by an OB receptor is an increase in energy use.